



HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR

March 25, 2019

Mr. Daniel Tait
Energy and Policy Institute
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 68942
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Mr. Tait:

Thank you again for contacting the Office of the Governor (“Office”) regarding your recent request for records pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), S.C. Code Ann. §§ 30-4-10 *et seq.* To follow up regarding our previous correspondence, copies of which are enclosed herewith, this letter will serve as the Office’s timely response to your FOIA request. Accordingly, please allow this letter to confirm that the Office has concluded its search efforts and is prepared to produce certain records identified as potentially responsive to your FOIA request, subject to any applicable exemptions, exclusions, or limitations under state or federal law.

As previously noted, due to the high volume of FOIA requests received by this Office and the significant costs associated therewith, we are permitted to charge reasonable fees for searching for, copying, transferring, and redacting records pursuant to section 30-4-30(B) of the South Carolina Code of Laws. Notwithstanding the significant amount of staff time and resources devoted to searching for records and responding to your FOIA request, I am authorized to further reduce the total cost associated with the same. To this end, please be advised that the total discounted fee associated with searching for records and responding to the present FOIA request is \$17.50. You may send a check, made payable to the “State of South Carolina—Office of the Governor,” to my attention at the address below. An itemized invoice is available upon request and in accordance with the uniform fee schedule posted on the Office’s website. Please note that the full amount of the total cost must be paid at the time of production.

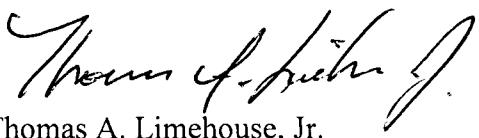
Finally, please note that this Office has not charged any copying or file transfer fees in connection with the instant FOIA request. Similarly, please be advised that certain search terms

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from your FOIA request have produced a fairly significant amount of communications, which we suspect are unrelated to the subject of your inquiry. Most notably, the “CEA” keyword has yielded hundreds of pages of emails or attachments that reference or otherwise relate to the Council of Economic Advisers. Therefore, in an effort to limit the total expense associated with responding to your FOIA request, we have omitted such emails from this Office’s production set; however, please let us know if you would like to review these materials as well.

Of course, should you have any questions or concerns regarding anything mentioned above or otherwise, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,



Thomas A. Limehouse, Jr.
Legal Counsel

Enclosures



HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR

February 28, 2019

Mr. Daniel Tait
Energy and Policy Institute
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 68942
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Mr. Tait:

Thank you for contacting the Office of the Governor (“Office”) regarding your recent request for records pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), S.C. Code Ann. §§ 30-4-10 *et seq.* According to your February 15, 2019 facsimile, a copy of which is enclosed herewith, you are seeking the following records from certain named custodians:

All electronic records containing the following keywords:

- Consumer Energy Alliance
- CEA
- HBW
- National Ocean Policy Coalition
- NOPS
- @oceanpolicy.com
- @consumerenergyalliance.org

The present letter will serve as this Office’s timely reply and determination that we have identified certain records as potentially responsive to one or more portions of the enclosed FOIA request.

We are continuing to search for records in connection with your FOIA request. Although we anticipate that this Office’s ongoing search and retrieval efforts will require several additional hours of staff time and resources, we remain committed to providing you with a comprehensive and relevant response in the most expeditious and efficient manner possible. Once we have completed our reasonable search of records in the possession, custody, or control of this Office, we will contact you to coordinate production of those records identified as responsive to your FOIA request, subject to any applicable exclusions or limitations under state or federal law.

Due to the high volume of FOIA requests received by the Office of the Governor and the significant costs associated therewith, please note that this Office is authorized to charge reasonable fees for searching for, copying, transferring, and redacting records pursuant to section 30-4-30(B) of the South Carolina Code of Laws. A summary of this Office's discounted fee schedule is available at www.governor.sc.gov. Based on the search efforts employed to date, this Office has concluded that the "total reasonably anticipated cost for reproduction of the records" in connection with your FOIA request will most probably equal or slightly exceed \$20.00, including any applicable discounts. Although we will continue to make every effort to reduce costs, per your request, we are notifying you in advance of the anticipated production expenses. Finally, in accordance with section 30-2-50 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, this letter will serve as the requisite notice that "obtaining or using public records for commercial solicitation directed to any person in this State is prohibited." S.C. Code Ann. § 30-2-50(B).

Once again, thank you for your recent records request. We look forward to working with you and will contact you as soon as we have finished searching for and compiling any responsive records. Of course, should you have any questions or concerns in the interim regarding anything mentioned above or otherwise, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Thomas A. Limehouse, Jr.
Legal Counsel

Enclosure

TIME RECEIVED	REMOTE CSID	DURATION	PAGES	STATUS
February 15, 2019 at 12:07:47 PM EST	+12568343688	62	2	Received
15-Feb-2019 11:06	South Carolina Public Records Law Request: So			+12568343688

p.1

Office of the Governor - South Carolina
South Carolina Public Records Law Office
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

February 15, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the South Carolina Public Records Law, I hereby request the following records:

All electronic records containing the following keywords:

- Consumer Energy Alliance
- CEA
- HBW
- National Ocean Policy Coalition
- NOPS
- @oceanpolicy.com
- @consumerenergyalliance.org

The request should include emails (both sent and received), email attachments, text messages, encrypted messages (such as Signal and/or WhatsApp etc.), messaging apps (such as Slack, Trello and/or Asana etc.), cloud based file storage systems (such as Microsoft One Drive, Google Drive, and/or Dropbox etc.) and any other electronic records.

The scope of this public records request is for Governor Henry McMaster and his Chief of Staff Trey Walker.

The timeframe of this public records request is between January 1, 2017 and the date of this filing.

You may exclude news articles, press clippings, and duplicate emails.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

The organization I work for, the Energy and Policy Institute (EPI), is a clearinghouse of information and can qualify as a representative of the news media. There are several examples of public record requests provided to EPI that were published on our website to inform journalists publishing articles. Additionally, federal agencies have previously categorized FOIAs from the Energy and Policy Institute under Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1004.9(b)(3) as a "news media" requester and have determined that we satisfy the criteria considered for a waiver of fees.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or USB drive if not.

I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 15 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Daniel Tait

Filed via MuckRock.com

E-mail (Preferred): 68942-19037286@requests.muckrock.com

For mailed responses, please address (see note):
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 68942
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

PLEASE NOTE: This request is not filed by a MuckRock staff member, but is being sent through MuckRock by the above in order to better track, share, and manage public records requests. Also note that improperly addressed (i.e., with the requester's name rather than "MuckRock News" and the department number) requests might be returned as undeliverable.